

WATER QUALITY REPORT

FOR BLOOMINGTON, MN • 2006 TEST RESULTS



JUNE 2007

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ENSURING YOUR SAFETY BLOOMINGTON’S WATER SURPASSED ALL REQUIREMENTS

AT THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, OUR goal is to provide you with high-quality, safe, reliable drinking water that meets every federal and state water quality requirement. This report contains information about the sources, treatment process and history of our water system. The page four summary provides the results of water quality monitoring on Bloomington’s water sources from January 1 to December 31, 2006, by the Minnesota Department of Health, the City of Minneapolis and our own laboratories. We also answer the most common questions that people have about our water. This report is meant to advance consumers’ understanding of drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

GET INVOLVED

YOUR WATER MEETS ALL FEDERAL, STATE and local guidelines. Public Works welcomes your input on water quality issues. For information, contact Water Quality Supervisor Jon Eaton at 952-563-4501.

If you have questions about your water, or we can be of service in any way, please give us a call or visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Water plant.

Water Plant (24 hours a day)
952-563-4905
TTY (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., M-F)
952-563-8740

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Si necesita una traducción del mismo, sírvase llamar al 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

Bản báo cáo này có các thông tin rất quan trọng. Nếu quý vị cần bản dịch tiếng Việt, xin gọi số 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

Warbixintaan waxaa ku jira macluumaad aad muhiim u ah. Haddii aad u baahan tahay in lagu turjumo, fadlan la xiriir 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

CLEAN, SAFE WATER HIGH-TECH EQUIPMENT TESTS WATER QUICKLY

THE TRI-CITY/WILLIAM LLOYD ANALYTICAL Laboratory has provided water quality testing since 1967. The lab runs more than 158,000 trace-element tests per year on the water supplies for the cities of Bloomington, Edina and St. Louis Park. That’s more than 430 tests per day. Our goal is to provide testing services of exceptional quality and value, using up-to-date technologies.

While keeping equipment maintenance and repair costs to a minimum, old equipment is systematically replaced. During the winter of 2006, the laboratory embarked on a new adventure in trace-element analysis. The aged Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS) was replaced with a state-of-the-art Inductively Coupled Plasma-Optical Emission Spectrometer (ICP-OES).

The older-style AAS analyzed one element in a sample every 8 - 10 minutes.

Analyzing 20 samples for one element could take more than five hours to process. With the new high-speed, multi-element ICP-OES, 75 different elements in a single sample are processed in less than five minutes – a huge time savings.

Unlike most atomic absorption instruments, ICP-OES is capable of detecting up to 40 elements per minute, with a calibration time of only 10 - 35 seconds. The high-speed and low-detection limits of this instrument make it an excellent platform for water analysis.

The high-to-low range of the elements the ICP-OES can see is also much wider than the range of the AAS. The wider range saves time by avoiding dilutions and additional personnel



time to re-analyze samples. Over the last 25 years, ICP-OES technology has become indispensable for chemical elemental analysis. The lab’s new spectrometer is an excellent tool to identify any deviations in the City’s drinking water quality. With the use of efficient and accurate state-of-the-art technology, the City will continue to maintain the low-detection limits set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

DO YOUR PART TO HELP CONSERVE WATER FOLLOW THESE TIPS FOR EFFICIENT LAWN CARE

WITH RECENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND increased demands on limited water supplies, conserving water is important. Many communities have instituted “Time-of-Day” or “Odd-Even” restrictions to conserve water. Consumer use data indicates these restrictions do not save water but merely move the peak demand period to a different time. For this reason, Bloomington does not have a watering restriction, but still educates consumers about using water wisely.

Nationally, lawn care accounts for 32 percent of outdoor water use. Efficient use of water can prevent waste, lessen the effects of drought and minimize runoff and leaching. While each site will have different considerations such as soil type, grass species, weather and sun exposure, these practices can be used for an efficient watering approach.

- 1 Reduce lawn size** – Less lawn substantially reduces the amount of water used for landscape maintenance.
- 2 Use native and drought-resistant grass species** – Mixtures of native grass species get the most effective and long-lasting seasonal coverage. Fine fescues have low water needs and high drought tolerance.
- 3 Water only when necessary** – Bloomington usually has enough rainfall to supply the water needs of most lawns. Two simple ways to tell if your lawn needs water are its color and flexibility. If you walk on your lawn and leave a footprint or the color of your lawn turns blue/green, the grass needs water. Mature lawns that go brown in the summer are in a natural period of dormancy. They will green up when wetter, cooler weather returns.
- 4 Water your lawn in the early morning** – Watering early in the morning will allow your grass to dry quickly and lose less water from evaporation. Limiting moist conditions reduces disease susceptibility.
- 5 Water slowly and deeply** – Watering slowly allows the water to be absorbed. You should water four to six inches deep, which equals about one inch of water on the surface. If using a sprinkler, place a rain gauge or shallow can on either side of the sprinkler and measure the water that it collects. This approach will help determine the amount of water you are using.
- 6 Water sloped areas with care** – On sloped areas, do not apply water

faster than it is being absorbed. Water regularly until you begin to see runoff. Stop watering until it is absorbed into the ground and then continue until you have watered four to six inches deep.

- 7 Maintain sprinkler systems and irrigation equipment** – Make sure your sprinkler system is appropriate for your landscape and watering needs. Install matched precipitation sprinkler heads which apply water according to an area’s needs. Make sure that the irrigation system has a rain shutoff device. Locate irrigation heads at least eight inches from paved areas and watch where water is going. You should not be watering the sidewalk, trees or the neighbor’s yard.
- 8 Check your equipment** – Fix leaky hoses and faucets. Install a shutoff timer on hoses to prevent water loss from unattended hoses. A hose without a nozzle can spout 10 gallons or more per minute. Do not leave faucets or hoses on when they are not in use.

Reducing the water used for lawn and landscape maintenance is essential to protect water supplies for current and future uses and for protecting natural resources.